

FINAL BILL REPORT

2SHB 1513

C 109 L 18
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Collecting youth voter registration sign up information.

Sponsors: House Committee on State Govt, Elections & IT (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Stambaugh, Frame, Hudgins, Sawyer, Slatter, Macri, Gregerson, Peterson, McBride, Doglio, Appleton, Fitzgibbon, Goodman, Tharinger, Farrell, Pollet, Ormsby, Dolan and Riccelli).

House Committee on State Government, Elections & Information Technology
House Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on State Government
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections
Senate Committee on Transportation

Background:

Voter Registration.

A person may vote if he or she is a United States citizen, have lived at their address for at least 30 days prior to the election, is at least 18 years old, is not under the Department of Corrections supervision for a felony conviction, and is not disqualified to vote due to a court order. It is a class C felony for a person to register to vote if the person knows that he or she does not meet the legal qualifications of a voter.

Upon registering to vote, the applicant must confirm that he or she is a United States citizen and is at least 18 years old or will be by the next election. Applicants register electronically, by mail, or in person at certain locations. To register electronically, a person must have a valid state driver's license or state identification card and agree to use his or her license or identification card signature for voter registration purposes.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires state agencies to provide voter registration services to their customers. Through the Motor Voter Act, the Department of Licensing (DOL) is required to provide voter registration services. In addition to the DOL, the Governor, in consultation with the Secretary of State (Secretary), must designate state agencies to provide voter registration services. Additional agencies offering voter registration services are the: Department of Social and Health Services, Department of

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Health, Health Care Authority, Health Benefits Exchange, and Department of Services for the Blind. In addition, each institution of higher education is required to place an active prompt on its course registration website, or similar, that will allow students to select a link that directs them to the Secretary's voter registration website. State agencies offering registration services must ask its customers if they want to register to vote or update voter registration information.

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.

On January 16, or the preceding Friday if January 16 falls on a nonschool day, each public school observes Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. The Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent) must annually produce a program for teachers to use on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.

Voter Registration Database, the Public Records Act, and Jury List.

The Secretary must maintain a statewide voter registration database, and each county auditor must maintain custody of the original voter registration records. Subject to certain restrictions, either the county auditor or the Secretary must make available for public inspection and copying the precinct lists and lists of registered voters. The only information in voter registration records available for inspection and copying include the voter's: name, address, political jurisdiction, gender, date of birth, voting record, date of registration, and registration number. In addition, the Secretary must provide a copy of the master statewide voter registration file to the Consolidated Technology Services agency for the purpose of creating a jury source list.

Summary:

Voter Registration.

A person may sign up to register to vote in person at a designated agency, electronically, or by mail upon his or her sixteenth birthday. A person who signs up to register to vote is also referred to as a future voter. A future voter who signs up to register to vote provides information needed for voter registration, but his or her application remains in pending status, and his or her information is not added to the statewide voter registration database until he or she will be age 18 by the next election. State agencies that offer voter registration services must ask their customers if they want to sign up to register to vote, and if the person is at least 18 years old or at least 16 years and will only vote after turning 18 years old.

The voter registration application is modified to require an applicant for voter registration, and those signing up must register, to acknowledge that he or she is at least 18 years old, or that at least age 16 and will only vote upon turning age 18. A person who is 16 or 17 years old who signs up to register to vote as part of the future voter program is not guilty of a class C felony. The Secretary may employ additional security measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of voter pre-registration applications submitted electronically.

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.

On the annual Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, if resources allow, social studies teachers must coordinate a voter registration event in each history or social studies class attended by high school seniors as part of the future voters program. As resources allow, county auditors may help coordinate and participate in these voter registration events. Each

event must encourage students who will be at least 18 years old by the next general election to register to vote online or by paper application from the classroom. Teachers must make voter sign-up and registration available to all students.

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Secretary, must update and distribute youth voter registration materials by December 1 each year and electronically notify high school principals and secondary social studies and history teachers that the materials are available. The Superintendent must consult with the Secretary to provide registration methods that enable the electronic collection of information on the number of students who register at the registration event, with the goal of achieving at least 50,000 new voter registrations for 17 and 18 year olds annually. Beginning on March 1, 2020, the Superintendent must report on yearly progress toward this goal, and provide recommendations for increasing youth voter registration, to the Governor and Legislature.

Voter Registration Database, the Public Records Act, and Jury List.

The county auditor must maintain custody of the original voter sign-up records for registration. The Secretary must store the pending registration records for persons who sign up to register to vote and must ensure that the records will not appear on the official list of registered voters until the applicant will be at least 18 years old by the next election. Personally identifiable information and information that is otherwise disclosable under election law is exempt from public inspection and copying until the subject of the record reaches age 18, except for the purpose of processing and delivering ballots. In addition, the information contained in a voter registration application is exempt from inclusion on the jury source list until the person reaches age 18.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	53	45
House	52	46
Senate	27	22

Effective: July 1, 2018